

proximate amounts of Wages/Salary payment per month in each of the gardens are as below:

Looksan Tea Estate	- Rs. 5.41 lakhs
Pashok Tea Estate	- Rs. 5.00 lakhs
Vah-Tukvar Tea Estate	- Rs. 4.50 lakhs
Potong Tea Estate	- Rs. 2.31 lakhs

(f) and (g) Provident Fund dues of the workers in respect of all the four gardens have been cleared by Tea Trading Corporation India Ltd. upto March, 1996. In Looksan tea estate, housing, medical and other facilities have been paid upto date. In other three gardens, however, there have been arrears on this account.

(h) In view of consistent losses incurred by TTCL Ltd. on account of its garden operations, it has been decided to dispose of all the gardens owned by the Corporation through outright sale. Attempts are being made to complete the sale process expeditiously. In the meanwhile, the management of TTCL has been asked to continue production and manufacturing activities to the extent feasible to ensure payment of current dues. Funds have also been provided to TTCL by STC/Govt. of India from time to time, to meet the statutory liabilities.

#### STATEMENT

*Details of tea gardens owned by  
TTCL in West Bengal*

S.No.	Name of the tea gardens	Planted area (Hectares)	No. of workers & employees
1	2	3	4
1.	Looksan Tea Estate, Dist. Jalpaiguri	417.70	893
2.	Pashok Tea Estate, Darjeeling.	305.70	959
3.	Vah Tukvar Tea Estate, Darjeeling.	197.08	747
4.	Potong Tea Estate, Darjeeling.	138.44	345

#### Land For Agricultural Activities

3210. SHRIMATI MEIRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether under liberalisation policy the Government have permitted foreign companies and Non-Resident Indians to purchase agricultural land in India and partially/wholly carry on agricultural activities; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) No, Sir. Acquisition of agricultural land in India, by way of purchases, and carrying on agricultural activity by foreign companies and Non-Resident Indians is not permitted under the provisions of Foreign Exchange Regulation Act, 1973.

(b) Does not arise.

#### Textiles Designing Exhibitions

3211. SHRI N.J. RATHWA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of textile design exhibitions organized in the country, particularly in Gujarat during the last three years State-wise;

(b) the details of export orders received through these exhibitions till now;

(c) whether the Government propose to organize more such exhibition in future; and

(d) if so, the details thereof; State-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) 212 exhibitions were organised under the National Design Collection Programme (NDCP) and by the Weavers Service Centres (WSC) during the last three years, including 6 exhibitions in Gujarat. The details of the exhibitions are attached as statement.

(b) The purpose of organising these exhibitions is primarily to disseminate technical information and to increase awareness.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. In the near future more exhibitions are likely to be organised in the country.

#### STATEMENT

*Exhibitions held under the National Design Collection Programme and by the Weavers Service Centres during the last 3 years.*

	State	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96
	1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	-	-	3
2.	Assam	2	2	4
3.	Bihar	1	-	-
4.	Chandigarh	4	4	4
5.	Delhi	4	5	14
6.	Gujarat	2	-	4
7.	Haryana	-	-	3
8.	Himachal Pradesh	-	2	2
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	-	2	1
10.	Karnataka	-	-	4

	1	2	3	4
11. Kerala	1	-	2	
12. Madhya Pradesh	-	1	15	
13. Maharashtra	2	17	35	
14. Manipur	-	-	1	
15. Orissa	1	-	7	
16. Punjab	1	-	-	
17. Rajasthan	-	1	10	
18. Tamil Nadu	-	1	6	
19. Tripura	-	-	2	
20. Uttar Pradesh	3	1	13	
21. West Bengal	9	6	10	
	30	42	140	

#### Compensation Paid By Bank of India

3212. SHRI PRADIP BHATTACHARYA:  
SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bank of India's eastern zone office in Calcutta has not yet given its final decision in regard to payment of some compensation for withholding some constituents current deposit account by its Lindsay Street Branch, Calcutta;

(b) whether the constituents have been representing the cases both to the Government and the bank for long for settlement of the accounts since 1993;

(c) whether the bank had offered some interest as were prevalent for the savings bank account holders and which the constituents refused;

(d) whether any further negotiation has been held; and

(e) if so, details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): (a) and (b) Bank of India's Zonal Office in Calcutta has taken a final decision to pay interest at the rate of 5 per cent on the amount lying in the accounts of M/s. Bineyog from the date of death of account holder till the release of the amount remaining in the balance to the claimant. In the opinion of the Bank the claim of the constituents for an amount of Rs. 1.25 lacs is not acceptable.

(c) According to the Bank the interest offered is in accordance with the provisions governing such accounts.

(d) The bank has reported that its best efforts to convince the claimant had failed.

(e) Does not arise.

#### Export of Cotton Yarn

3213. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has announced the export quota for cotton yarn for the current year;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to increase the export of cotton yarn ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government have announced a quantitative ceiling of 120 million kgs for export of cotton yarn of 40s and below counts during the calendar year 1997.

(c) In order to boost exports of textiles, including cotton yarn, Government have been taking a number of steps, which include encouraging exporters to participate in buyer-seller meets, fairs and exhibitions; enabling import of capital goods at concessional duty for export production; special arrangements for duty free import of raw materials for export production; ensuring increased availability of export credit etc.

#### Stowing Operation

3214. SHRI HARADHAN ROY: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the provisions in the budget during the last three years for expenditure from the net proceeds of cess towards conservation including stowing operation and development of roads in colliery areas;

(b) the physical targets and actual achievements in regard to each item of expenditure provided for in the budget during the last three years, year-wise; and

(c) the details of the works undertaken in 1996-97 for conservation and safety in mines from the above provision in the budget ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) and (b) The budget provision to meet the expenditure towards conservation including stowing and development of transport infrastructure in coalfield areas out of the excise duty (cess) collected under the Coal Mines (Conservation and Development) Act, 1974 and actual expenditure during the last three years was as under:-